

The IGUANA

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January 24, 2003

Seeing things clearly – Medical team helps improve vision for hundreds of Hondurans

By 1st Lt. Carla Pampe
Public Affairs Director

Hundreds of Hondurans are seeing the world more clearly this month thanks to the efforts of a medical team from 12th Air Force.

The team, based at Lackland Air Force Base's Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, was in Honduras Jan. 10-20 for a Medical Readiness and Training Exercise, or MEDRETE, held at the Hospital Del Sur in the southern Honduras city of Choluteca.

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Robert Smith headed up the team, which also included residents from Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio who were during a rotation at Wilford Hall.

"During our two weeks here, we've seen more than 1,000 patients, performed more than 100 surgeries and handed out hundreds of pairs of donated glasses."

Dr. Carlos Duron, Honduran Medical Liaison Officer, said the team performed an average of 15 surgeries a day, mostly for cataracts.

"Because there is no eye specialist in this region, we see a lot of cataracts that are very mature," he said. "It's something that is very easily fixed on most patients."

One patient who came to the hospital in hopes the team could help him was David Ochoa, 77, who came from the village of El Triunfo, about an hour and a half drive from Choluteca. He heard about the current clinic from some of his neighbors who came in December to get an appointment.

"I have a lot of faith and trust that God and the team are going to help me see better," he said. Ochoa's eyesight is so poor that he sees only limited movement at one foot's distance, and with his left eye, he can see limited movement at five feet.

"For the past 20 years, I've been having a progressive loss of vision," he said. Ochoa was seen by a MEDRETE team last year, and this year returned for a possible cataract surgery.

"I have a very big faith in this team, because they helped me last year."

The Hospital Del Sur is the only regional hospital for all of Choluteca and Valle provinces, which are home to more than half a million people. There is no eye specialist in the region. In addition to seeing adult patients, the MEDRETE team also saw quite a few pediatric cases.

Maria Helena Portillo's, son, Jose Ernest Lagos, 7, was seen in pediatric emergency after he was poked in the eye Jan. 10 with a hot iron while playing with friends.

"Because I was in El Salvador for the weekend, I didn't not know what happened until I got back that Sunday," Portillo said.

By that time, Jose's eye had developed severe peri-orbital cellulites, swelling and infection.

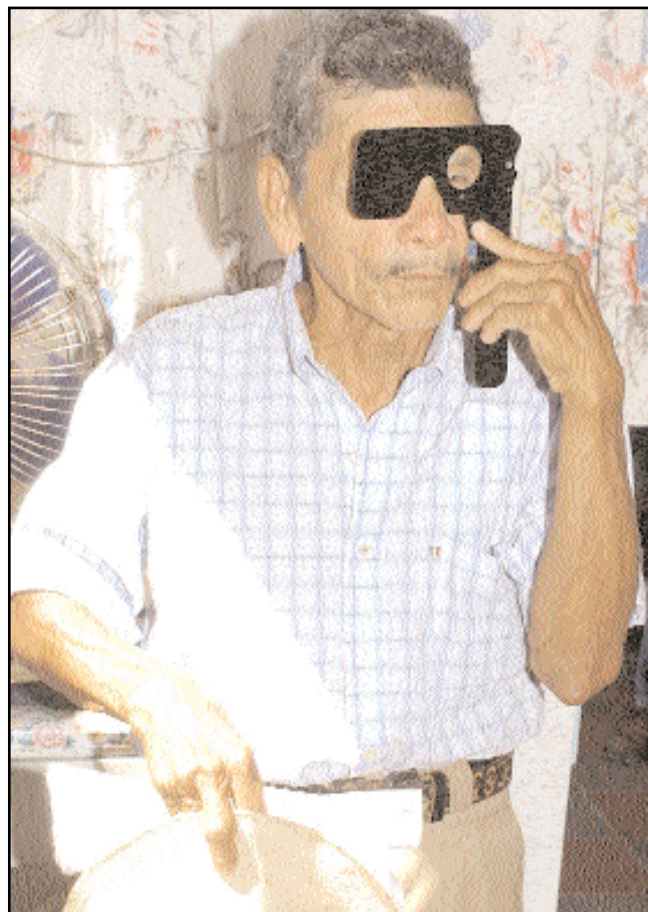
Last year, Jose and his twin brother were both treated by a MEDRETE team for irritation in their eyes, so when Portillo heard the team was back, she immediately rushed Jose to the hospital in the hopes that they could help her son.

The team treated Jose with antibiotics, and his mother said his eye was well on the way to healing.

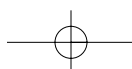
"I'm very thankful and very happy because of the great results."

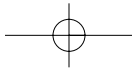
In addition to the team members from San Antonio, the MEDRETE was facilitated by JTF-Bravo Medel personnel on site - Capt. Angela Stone and 1st Lt. Vondalyn Simmons shared responsibility as officers in charge, Sgt. Adrian Canas served as non-commissioned officer in charge, and Drs. Duron and Guillermo Saenz served as Honduran Liaison Officers. The team was also assisted by a number of Honduran nationals, including eight translators, six Honduran guards and 16 Honduran Boy Scouts.

Have a comment or question? E-mail: Carla.Pampe@jtfb.southcom.mil



(Above) Dr. (Maj.) Kathy Weesner, staff anesthesiologist, left, from Lackland Air Force Base's Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, and Dr. (Lt. Col.) James McLane, a pediatrician from Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio who is currently doing an anesthesiology rotation at Wilford Hall, monitor 16-year-old following surgery to correct his lazy eye. His mother Anna Ramirez, is there to comfort her son as he wakes up. (Left) David Ochoa, 77, takes an eye test during an optometry screening Jan. 16 at the Hospital Del Sur in Choluteca. Ochoa, who has extremely limited vision in both eyes, was being screened as a possible candidate for cataracts surgery during the eye surgery Medical Readiness and Training Exercise held Jan. 10 - 20.





Commentary: Too much Tom Cruise?

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Many of us cringed last week when five soldiers of the elite Old Guard were arrested for burglary.

The strac soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry at Fort Myer, Va., are supposed to represent the best of the Army. They serve as the president's honor guard and stand vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Underneath the starch and polish, we expect Old Guard soldiers to embody Army values.

Then five of these elite were charged with breaking into estates near the nation's capital to steal jewelry, computers and cars, to include a Porsche and Mercedes.

News reports said the soldiers were part of a burglary ring that rappelled through skylights when owners were not home. The burglars reportedly wore black tactical BDUs and night-vision goggles to navigate through the mansions.

What in the world were these young soldiers thinking? Did they rent a video of "Mission Impossible" and decide to emulate Tom Cruise?

Maybe they missed the point that Cruise was doing it for the good of the nation.

Perhaps the suspects would have been better off if they viewed Dragnet or an old episode of JAG. Maybe that would have helped them realize that our CID agents are also elite and talented -- that crimes will be solved and perpetrators punished.

Do we need to emphasize more to soldiers that crimes will be punished? Do we need more deterrents on post? Maybe more of our Army newspapers should include a weekly "police blotter" and perhaps even list punishments for those found guilty?

Well, if the "McBurglars" arrested at Fort Carson, Colo., a couple of years ago are any indication, perhaps more education on crime and punishment is necessary. These soldiers stole petty cash in an armed robbery of a McDonald's restaurant. They said they needed money

to go home for Christmas. When arrested, one of the soldiers naively asked: "Will I get an Article 15 for this?"

Hard time behind bars awaits soldiers who commit such crimes, and they need to know it.

In the Old Guard case, even though the soldiers were arrested by county police, the military is seeking prosecuting jurisdiction, according to a CID agent assisting with the investigation.

"The military can try the suspects quicker and enforce harsher penalties to these soldiers than anyone else," the agent said.

Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, Military District of Washington commander, pledged the Army's support to local authorities investigating the case, and promised to punish the soldiers, if guilty.

"As members of the community at large, we are committed to ensuring our soldiers abide by the law and be-

See CRUISE page 3

Young 'Sgt. Justin' leaves impact

By Spc. Casondra Brewster
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – On Christmas morning in Greene, N.Y., instead of opening gifts, Justin Bryce died. With his death, the Army lost a good soldier.

He was a soldier's soldier. A hero among heroes. And he was only 10 years old.

"Sgt. Justin," as he was lovingly dubbed by his Army family, fought an arduous battle with liver cancer. The cancer spread to his brain, but not before he had fulfilled a life-long desire to become a soldier.

In early October the Army and the Make-A-Wish Foundation joined forces to help make Justin's wish come true.

For just three short days, one of which was spent here at Fort Belvoir, Justin was a soldier.

He was enlisted in the Army by top brass at the Pentagon and promoted to sergeant by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley. He was a natural-born leader, assuming the command of a "top-secret mission" which recovered "sensitive and classified" equipment and information.

"Let's move out!" he commanded, just moments after being briefed on his mission. And before the day was over, he easily responded with the Army's traditional, tried-and-true positive answer of "Hooah!"

During his tour of duty, Justin managed to be awarded a Meritorious Service Medal and collected a couple of dozen challenge coins from every leader he met. Additionally, he was loaded down with certificates of appreciation and achievement, plaques and other keepsakes from his Army "career."

He also took away a piece of everyone's heart who met and dealt with him that day. He certainly made me blink back a few tears. Additionally, he made me extra proud to wear U.S. Army across my chest. To think that this child could have literally chosen to do anything with his dying wish: go to Disneyland, take a cruise with his family or anything else his heart desired. But he wanted to be a freedom fighter he told me when he was here.

Justin followed in the footsteps of his eldest brother, Pfc. Raymond Bryce, who is assigned to Battery E, 7th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Drum, N.Y. During their visit to Belvoir, Sgt. Justin's mother, Mary Bryce, said she wasn't completely convinced that Raymond's career choice was the absolute reason Justin chose his

Make-A-Wish wish. However, she said she was proud of both of her "soldiers."

"Besides, soldiers get to do cool things and they get such awesome equipment," Justin said.

You know what, sergeant, you're absolutely right!

Sgt. Justin embodied the teaching spirit of any good Army noncommissioned officer, too. He taught me quite a few things during our short shared tour of duty together.

Besides giving me that added sense of pride in being a soldier, he taught me that our missions are crucial to the entire nation. That without the Army so many dreams, wishes and desires would never have an opportunity to come true.

Sgt. Justin taught me that even the smallest person can have a big impact.

See JUSTIN page 3



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

Sgt. Justin Bryce in a Black Hawk helicopter.

SUBMISSIONS

The Iguana is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to The Iguana can be sent to the PAO at george.kyriakeas@jtfb.southcom.mil or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, bldg. D-06 . If you have any questions regarding possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676.

The IGUANA



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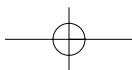
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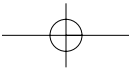
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January 24, 2003

NEWS

The IGUANA 3

Discover Comayagua during your tour

By Robin Gonzalez
MWR Director

Churches, market places, plazas, museums, Honduran cooking, "sawdust carpets", and centuries of history are just part of what makes up Comayagua. Rich with Lenca Indian and Spanish tradition, Comayagua is located just about the center of Honduras in a rich, agricultural valley and only a few minutes drive from Soto Cano Air Base.

Archaeologists have found evidence of civilization as old as 8,000 years in the valley, but the town of Comayagua was not permanently settled until 1537 by the Spanish Conquistadors. After quelling a national uprising led by the famous Lenca Indian Chief Lempira, the Spanish ruled Honduras until 1821 when the country gained its independence and Comayagua became the official capitol. In the late 1800s the capitol moved to its current location in Tegucigalpa. One explanation for this move was that the then President's wife did not believe Comayagua society was treating her to the social standards she set, so she convinced her husband to

relocate. Another explanation is that the President's girlfriend lived in Tegucigalpa so he relocated leaving his wife in Comayagua. As interesting as these explanations are, the real reason was based on politics and the fact that the silver mining companies (and money) were in Tegucigalpa.

Today Comayagua is a thriving Honduran town of 60,000 inhabitants and its famous for a couple of things; the centuries old church with the oldest continuously working clock in the western hemisphere and the "sawdust carpets" created for the annual Good Friday procession. The cathedral was built in the 1500s and in the 1600s the Spaniards presented a clock for the tower as a token of their esteem. At the time of presentation the clock was already several hundred years old. It is not a spectacularly decorated clock, but it has, and continues to, keep accurate time.

A legend surrounding the cathedral is that the Spanish priest supposedly removed all the gold artifacts and statues from the altar for safekeeping during the fight for Honduran independence. The priceless artifacts were "supposedly" hidden behind the altar that could

only be accessed by secret passages from under the cathedral and the central plaza. In order to prevent the rebels from taking the gold, the Spanish then constructed wooden altarpieces and painted them with a thin veneer of gold. The rebels didn't take anything from the cathedral but neither has anyone ever found the hidden gold artifacts.

The tradition of the "sawdust carpets" was brought to Comayagua from Guatemala in the early 1900s by the grandmother of the owner of the Villa Real restaurant (the restaurant is part of the family home that has been in this family since 1750). On Good Friday, hundreds of people start at midnight to create elaborate carpets made of colored sawdust and salt. By 9 a.m., 24 different and unique "sawdust carpets" have been created and ready for the Via Crusis (way of the cross) procession. This Good Friday event has grown over the years so that today thousands of Hondurans observe and/or participate.

Fact or fiction, old or new, Comayagua has something for everyone. Stop by MWR Travel and Tours, H-401, and let us help you discover Comayagua.

Explore the Bay Islands

By Robin Gonzalez
MWR Director

So much more than the best diving in the Caribbean, the Bay Islands of Honduras offers a wide variety of sights, sounds, and experiences.

Located just a few miles off the north coast of Honduras, the Bay Islands are part of the second largest barrier reef in the world; only Australia's Great Barrier Reef is bigger.

The three major islands of Roatan, Guanaja, and Utila offer a very different world from mainland Honduras.

Christopher Columbus reached Guanaja, also known as Bonacca or Guanahani, on his fourth and final voyage to the New World in 1502.

The Spanish settled the Bay Islands, particularly Roatan, in the mid-16th century and brought with them Indians from other Caribbean islands to work as slaves.

The first Garifuna (a mixture of African and indigenous people) settlement was established on Roatan in 1767 and continues to this day.

In the 1840s, the British, who then controlled Belize, extended their reach to the Bay Islands and the Mosquito Coast; this area became known as British Honduras. The British control lasted only 20 years, but gave the islands a unique heritage; the most notable being that English is so widely spoken that many islanders do not even speak Spanish despite the fact that Spanish is the official language of Honduras.

Even with the common language and heritage, each Bay Island offers visitors something different.

Utila, the smallest and flattest island, is home to the very rare American flag lizard, with its distinctive red, white and blue skin under the chin, and it is one of the three Utila amphibians found

nowhere else in the world. Also unique to Utila's waters is the world's largest fish, the whale shark, which reaches lengths of 40-60 feet and has only been spotted by about 400 people since 1986!

Guanaja, the second largest island, is the only one mountainous enough to have a true river and scenic waterfall and Bonacca, the capitol, is a 17-acre stilt village situated in a lagoon, not on the island itself. Because of its mountainous terrain and size, 12 by 4 miles, Guanaja has no roads and the only way to get around is by motorboat, kayak, horseback, or by foot. This lack of roads makes Guanaja the "quietest" Bay Island.

Roatan, the largest Bay Island, seems to have a little bit of everything; hills tall enough to provide spectacular views, New Orleans style homes built over the water, roads leading to hidden, white sand beaches, and more. One of the most popular tourist destinations is the Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences (RIMS) that allows a limited number of visitors to swim with the dolphins. After exploring the colorful and varied undersea formations at Utila and Guanaja, dive in and around wrecked Spanish galleons and other submerged vessels at French Harbor and other Roatan locations.

The Honduran Bay Islands offer something for everyone; diving and snorkeling, swimming with the dolphins, hiking to isolated waterfalls or sandy beaches, enjoying the peace and quiet, or partying the night away.

Utila, Guanaja, and Roatan are just a short flight and another world away from Soto Cano. So why not let MWR send you on your way to an experience of a lifetime; the Bay Islands of Honduras! Stop by MWR travel and tours in building H-401 or call MWR at ext. 4268 or 4458.

Corrections: In our last issue we reported incorrectly that MEDEL had changed commanders: The change of command ceremony held Jan. 2 marked the MEDEL Company's change of command.

Justin From page 2

He showed me that no matter how awful you feel, you can still smile and carry on. He reminded me that life is short and you need to do what you love to do, and be close to those you love.

Fortunately, unlike some soldiers during times of battle, Justin died with his family surrounding him.

He also will be wearing the battle dress uniform, identification tags, and highly polished boots to his final resting place.

Now, because up-state New York resembles a quasi-frozen tundra, little Justin will not be buried until the spring. As his fellow comrade-in-arms, I'd like to go and show an Army family face at his burial.

However, other missions will probably pull me out of the continental United States before the ground thaws. So, I'd like to invite other members of the Army family to stay close to the Bryce situation and show support for Sgt. Justin's family at his burial this spring.

At a minimum, I'd like to invite all of you to send cards, letters or memorial donations. Correspondence for the Bryce family may be sent to: The Bryce Family, P.O. Box 104, Oxford, NY 13830

Memorial requests can be found on Justin's Web site at www.caring-bridge.org/ny/justinbryce/index.htm. Currently, there's a posting on the Web site that says Justin has earned his "Angel Wings." I say he earned them a long time ago.

When Taps plays tonight, I'll be thinking of little-but-strong and big-hearted Sgt. Justin Bryce.

Cruise From page 2

have as good neighbors," Jackson said. "When they do not, we will ensure all the allegations are thoroughly investigated and dealt with in an appropriate manner."

The Army tries hard to be a good neighbor around the nation and the world.

Soldiers support charity drives, community events and activities such as the Special Olympics.

It's just a shame that a few bad apples can tarnish the good name of the Army for thousands of good-hearted, generous soldiers.

Luckily, many Americans realize that the vast majority of troops are law-abiding, model citizens. Surprisingly, the understanding public even includes one of the crime victims.

"It doesn't shake my trust in the military," said homeowner Dandria Michalak who lost her jewelry, car and other valuables. "I'm sure the military is very disappointed they have this type of people there, too."

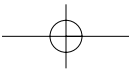
"I think most of the military is probably very good," Michalak said. "It didn't make me feel bad about the military, it makes me feel bad about them."

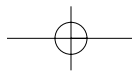
Wow. How more understanding and insightful could a crime victim be?

Michalak even said: "It never would have occurred to me it would be soldiers."

Let's hope her opinion -- and that of most Americans -- never changes.

(Editor's note: Information and quotes taken from a news report filed by Chris Walz, a staff writer for the Pentagon newspaper at Fort Myer, Va.)





Learn what the fish know

Story and Photos by Spc. George Kyriakeas
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Office

Being stationed in Honduras offers many opportunities. On your own or through MWR you can visit Mayan ruins in Copan, check out the sights and nightlife of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula or get in some relaxation time in the Bay Islands. This area also offers opportunities for learning as well. One of these is a chance to learn how to scuba dive cheaply and easily in what many say is one of the best places in the world for diving, said Capt. Kate Harrison, MEDEL.

MWR offers this opportunity to learn how to scuba dive once a month with their basic and advanced open water diver courses, said Sandra Aguilar, MWR.

The courses cost \$81 and offer three days of classroom instruction and practical application in the base pool using diving equipment provided by MWR. The price tag also includes dives near Utila to attain Profesional Association of Diving Instructors open water diving certification.

The basic course will teach you everything you need to know to 'dive' into the sport of scuba diving, said Spc. Raulyn Urena, ARFOR. "In the classroom they taught us the basics of



Can't breathe underwater? Fortunately, MWR has the gear that will allow you to.

safety, how to put on the gear and maintain the equipment and how to interact with the aquatic environment."

Divers then take what they learn in the classroom and head to the base pool to put that education to use and learn the skills you need as a scuba diver, said Harrison. After a poolside briefing by the instructors, they learned skills like breathing underwater, buoyancy control and buddy breathing.

Those who have not experienced breathing underwater might feel a

little apprehensive about taking the course, but recent students say they shouldn't worry. "Before we went to the pool I was a little scared, but after the first breath it was good," said Urena.

"It was scary at first but awesome afterwards," said Harrison. "Once you realize that you are actually breathing, it becomes more comfortable."

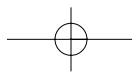
Students of the course recommend it to other soldiers and airmen. "Do it. It's cheap, it's a good sport and it's an experience you will never forget," said Urena.

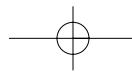
"It's probably the best price you'll find anywhere," said Harrison. "It was so fun. I can't wait to do my open-water dives."

Have a comment or question? E-mail:
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Following classroom instruction and a breakdown of skills to be learned poolside, students enter the pool and put their learning to the test.





January 24, 2003

Feature

The IGUANA **5**



Spc. Raulyn Urena, ARFOR, dons his mask and snorkel.



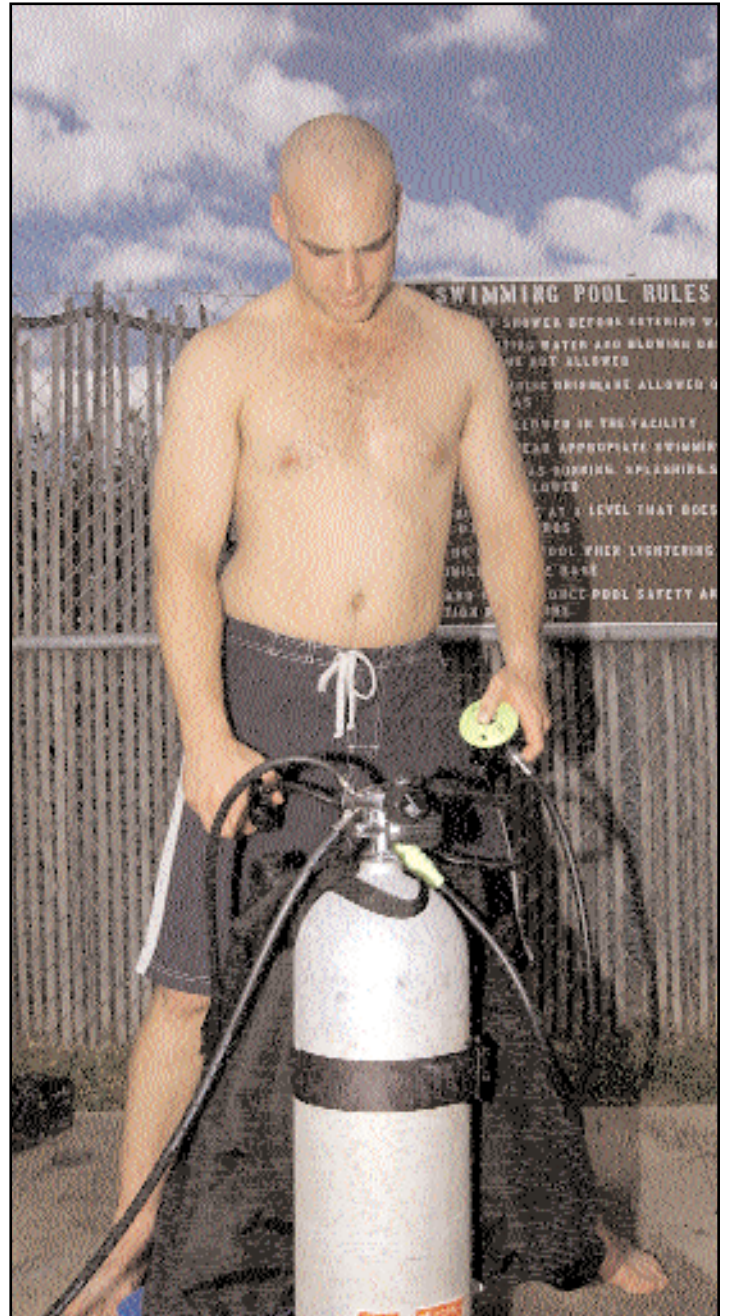
Capt. Kate Harrison, MEDEL, releases air from her Buoyancy Control Device and prepares to explore the depths of the base pool.



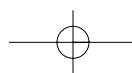
Strange creatures lurk below the waters of the base pool. Luckily, students of the basic scuba-diving course are there to lend their aid.

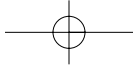


Following the instruction of Tim Latimer, members of the basic scuba-diving course familiarize themselves with and assemble their equipment.



1st Lt. Michael Ryan, AFFOR, checks out his regulator before entering the pool.





Smallpox vaccinations to begin

By **Spc. Jacob W. Boyer & Kevin Larson**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Forces Command soldiers will start lining up this month for their mandatory smallpox shots, and so will troops in Kuwait, Army officials said.

More than 400 health-care workers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center have already received the vaccination this past month, officials said, without any serious reactions, and only a couple episodes of nausea.

Every member of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) deployed to Kuwait will be administered the smallpox vaccine sometime in the middle of January, said Lt. Col. William Corr, division surgeon.

"It's important for those serving here to get the smallpox vaccination because it can be used as a weapon," he said. "In its aerosolized form, smallpox can be an effective weapon."

The disease is highly contagious and spreads easily from person to person, he said. It could spread through a camp in 24 hours. Because of that, he said it is important that all soldiers in Kuwait receive the vaccine as soon as possible.

"All (servicemembers) who will be in a high-threat area for more than 15 days need to get the smallpox vaccine," Corr said. "We plan to get everybody here vaccinated in one day."

Although some soldiers may have been vaccinated in their childhood or earlier in their military careers, they need to be inoculated again, Corr said. "The effectiveness of the vaccine wanes after five years, and after 20, its effects are negligible," he said.

Unlike the Anthrax vaccine, which requires six shots and an annual booster, Dryvax -- the smallpox vaccine -- only needs to be administered once, Corr said. A two-pronged needle is dipped in the vaccine and punctured one-sixteenth of an inch into the receiver's skin 15 times.

With the threat of smallpox being used as a bio-weapon against military forces, President George W. Bush ordered all Department of Defense military personnel to get the smallpox vaccination.

"Everybody reads the papers, everybody watches CNN," said Col. Phil Stikes, FORSCOM preventive medicine officer. "It's pretty obvious why we need it. We think potential enemies might have it (smallpox)."

A limited number of DoD civilians who have been designated emergency essential will be asked to get a smallpox vaccination also, officials said.

People with compromised immune systems, who have had eczema or atopic dermatitis or other skin conditions that have not yet cleared up and who are pregnant or breastfeeding should not get the smallpox vaccination, Stikes said. Also, if they live with anyone who meets those conditions they should not get vaccinated.

If soldiers meet these medical exclusions and do not get the smallpox vaccination, they are still deployable, Stikes said. If there were a smallpox outbreak medically excluded soldiers would have to roll up their sleeves and take the shot.

"In the event of a smallpox outbreak, their vaccination status would be re-evaluated," Stikes said.

For soldiers who do not meet the exclusion criteria, refusal is not an option. If soldiers refuse the vaccination, the first step will be to educate them on the risks of smallpox, Stikes said. Since this is a force health-protection issue, continued refusal will most likely be considered failure to follow a lawful order.

Side effects for the smallpox vaccine are usually mild, according to Stikes. They include sore arm, fever, headache, body ache and fatigue and peak after eight to 12 days following vaccination.

If soldiers have any concerns or experience any discomfort or side effects beyond those normally expected with the smallpox vaccination, then they should seek medical advice, Stikes said.

Soldiers can tell if their vaccination was successful if they see a red, itchy bump form at the vaccination site.

"In the first week, the bump becomes a pus-filled blister," Stikes said. "Then, in the second week, a scab forms. The scab falls off in week three and leaves a small scar."

Although rare, there are some serious side effects possible from the vaccine, Stikes said. Out of one million people, 1,000 will have serious but not life-threatening reactions, 14 to 52 people will have serious skin reactions or brain inflammation, and one or two people may die.

"If it's one in a million for the general population, it will be one in a million for us," he said. "We're a subset of the population."

A thorough and careful screening process, though, will be in place to ensure those at increased risk will not receive the vaccination, Stikes said. The process is still being refined at this time and streamlining it is also in the works.

The vaccine contains a live virus, but it is not smallpox. Instead, the vaccine is made from another pox virus, one closely related to smallpox. But because the vaccine is made from a live, actively growing virus, there are certain key points to remember, Stikes said.

"Key points to remember after being vaccinated are don't touch the spot where the needle was stuck and don't let other people touch it," he said. "If the vaccination spot does get touched, wash your hands right away."

Touching the vaccination site can cause the vaccine to not take or spread the pox used in the vaccine to other areas of the body, according to Stikes. That can cause serious problems, especially near eyes or other moist areas of the body.

The vaccination site will be bandaged following the shot but the bandage can be taken off when the bleeding stops, Stikes said. Disposing the bandage is easy. Just put it in a plastic bag with some bleach and throw it away.

When in close contact with others, though, it is best to keep a bandage over the vaccination site, Stikes said. It's also okay to exercise after being vaccinated, he said, just make sure you bring your own towels for showering. That towel and any other clothes that touch the vaccination site will then have to be washed in hot water with soap and bleach.

And as for the potency of the vaccine to be used, storage duration has had no ill effects, Stikes said.

"It's been freeze-dried," he said. "The vaccine has been tested for potency. Smallpox vaccine lasts a really long time."

The last time the vaccine was used to protect against naturally occurring smallpox was 1977 in Somalia. After that outbreak, the wild, naturally-occurring strains of smallpox were eradicated.

Wild or man-made, smallpox disease symptoms are the same. Smallpox symptoms begin with high fever, head and body aches and possibly vomiting, according to Stikes. A bumpy rash follows. The bumps crust, scab, and fall off after a few weeks, leaving scars.

Following exposure to smallpox, the risk of death is high. Thirty percent of infected people die. For some survivors, there is the risk of blindness.

"It's a bad disease," Stikes said. "Don't get it."

Smallpox is commonly spread by face-to-face contact with an infected person, especially one who is coughing. The virus travels in the cough's droplets of moisture.

Job library saves research time

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – People seeking civilian job information and supervisors considering creating a position or reorganizing work can save hours of research time by using a recently expanded electronic library of civilian job information.

More than 700 civilian positions are covered by the Standard Core Personnel Document Library Web Site.

Each listing contains a position description, performance plan and recruitment criteria.

Since 1996, more than 28,000 positions have been filled using documents from the library, said Chrissy Ayers, manager of the document library at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Previously, supervisors faced hours

of research to effectively write or revise a civilian position description, she said.

"Now people can check the SCPD library for existing established position descriptions before developing one on their own," said Ayers. "If a listed position fits the local work situation and is agreed upon with the servicing classification specialist it can then be tailored for a specific position."

The library is broken down by pay plan and allows people to search by job family.

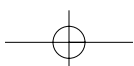
"Our goal is to list as many positions on the SCPD library as possible," said Ayers. "This consolidated resource of information could save people vast amounts of time." (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

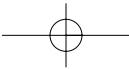
Back in action



Photo by Bobbi Garcia

Two F-16s Fighting Falcons fly to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., from the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.





January 24, 2003

SERVICE NEWS

The IGUANA 7

New short-term enlistments coming

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country.

Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

The program allows the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not serve because of the length of traditional enlistment options, said Bob Clark, assistant director in the Department of Defense's accession policy directorate.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active-duty commitment of about 19 months.

Following successful completion of active duty, servicemembers may re-enlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected reserve for a 24-month obligation.

Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the selected reserve or transfer to individual ready reserve for the remainder of an eight-year commitment.

"The unique piece of this legislation is that while in the individual ready reserve, these young people will be given the opportunity to move into one of the other national service programs, such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, and time in those will count toward their eight-year obligation," Clark said.

While the Army and Navy already have a limited two-year enlistment program, this is the first time the Air Force and Marine Corps will offer the option.

Clark said that the option would be limited to high-quality recruits -- those with a high school diploma and scores in the top half of aptitude tests. Officials hope this will make the military more attractive to college-bound youth who might volunteer to take a short period out between high school and college, but would not take off that three- or four-year period.

He said he feels the option may also attract college graduates interested in serving their country before attending graduate school. But perhaps the largest potential pool for the option is with community college graduates who might serve the

country for a short time and use available incentives to enter a four-year school, Clark said.

There are four incentives under the option. The first is a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active duty service.

The second is a loan-repayment option also paid at the end of the active-duty portion. The legislation allows for repayment of up to \$18,000 of qualifying student loans.

The final two incentives are tied to, but not part of, the Montgomery G.I. Bill. One gives 12 months of a full Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend -- currently about \$900 a month.

"This should attract college graduates looking to go to grad school," Clark said.

The other incentive offers 36 monthly payments at one-half of the current Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend.

"We look at this as being an incentive to both high school graduates or maybe college students who are financially strapped who may need to sit out for a period, serve the country, learn, see the world and then go to school," he said.

The services will set the enlistment criteria. Military specialties that involve long-term training will not be offered. Basic medical specialties, some engineer skills, and personnel, administration and combat specialties will be part of the mix. The first people who opt for this program will go into the delayed-entry program beginning Oct. 1.

Clark was adamant that servicemembers in this program would not be "second-class citizens." He said although they will serve shorter periods of time, they would be treated the same way as those with longer-term enlistments.

Traditional enlistment terms are three, four, five and six years, he said. The program will start with a small number of inductees, but there is no set number. As the program begins, DOD will work with national service organizations to ensure recruits under this program understand all their options.

Clarks said the department is coming off its most successful recruiting year ever. "The department does not need this program to fill the ranks," he said. "But we are excited about offering the chance to serve the country to young men and women who ordinarily might not."

New guide offers NCO references

By Staff Sgt. Dave Enders
Army News Service

FORT BLISS, Texas – A new, pocket-sized reference for NCOs is only a few mouse clicks away.

Field Manual 7-22.7, The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide, is now available for electronic download; hard copies of FM 7-22.7 are scheduled to arrive at active-duty units this month.

According to the guide's preface, FM 7-22.7 provides the Army's NCOs a guide for leading, supervising and caring for soldiers. While not all-inclusive nor intended as a stand-alone manual, the guide offers NCOs a ready reference for most situations.

Field Manual 7-22.7, which replaces Training Circular 22-6, The Noncommissioned Officer's Guide, is five chapters long and 5 1/2 inches wide by 8 1/2 inches long and fits in the cargo pocket of a battle dress uniform. The handbook offers instructions, guidance and information on NCO-related topics, including leadership, training, history, duties, responsibilities and authority.

Gen. John N. Abrams, former commander of the Training and Doctrine Command, directed an update to Training Circular 22-6, The Noncommissioned Officer's Guide in September 2001. He did so based on recommendations from the Army Training and

Leadership Development Panel members who had conducted a study to determine how the Army could make a professional NCO corps even better. One of the panel's recommendations was that FM 22-600-20, The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide, be re-established, updated and published, but the recommendation didn't address TC 22-6.

Soon after the USASMA director of Training and Doctrine, Sgt. Maj. Ricky Smith, was asked to oversee the project, THE EDGE Research and Development, an El Paso firm, was awarded the contract. Stephen Snyder, one of THE EDGE contractors and a retired Army major, worked with two retired sergeants major on the project.

"These are still soldiers who are passionate about what they're doing," said USASMA Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford R. West.

Although his writing team was responsible for assembling most of the information for FM 7-22.7, Snyder credited several others as key to the success. "The sergeant major of the Army took a personal interest in this project," said Snyder.

In fact, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley endorsed the NCO Vision in the beginning of the book. Snyder also specifically credited three others who he said greatly contributed to the vision and concept for FM 7-22.7: TRADOC

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony J. Williams, Combined Arms Center Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia A. Pritchett, and West.

These top NCOs continually offered suggestions and guidance throughout the development of FM 7-22.7, said Snyder.

The writing team focused those top NCOs' vision to build a portable reference that Army leaders can easily reference in a variety of situations. The team recommended it as FM 7-22.7.

"It is a ready reference that draws from literally hundreds of other field manuals, Army regulations, Army pamphlets and other sources," said Snyder. "We wrote this so that all Army leaders could use it and benefit from it."

The U.S. Army Publishing Agency will distribute FM 7-22.7 to all established active-duty account holders; however, Army National Guard and Reserve units must order copies. All Army components may order copies of FM 7-22.7 through USAPA as they would any other field manuals.

In addition to the printed version, USAPA has established an electronic version for download.

From the AKO home page, go to the Reference section and select "Manuals." The USASMA home page contains a direct link, and there's also a link at the "Training and Doctrine" section of the site.

Aviation adds recon team to their ranks

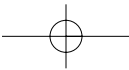
By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

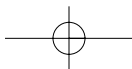
As the Army transforms, the aviation field plans to add to its ranks a reconnaissance team that will include manned and unmanned aerial vehicles and Comanche helicopters, announced Lt. Gen. Johnny Riggs, the director of the Objective Force Task Force.

During the annual Association of the United States Army Aviation Symposium Jan. 6-8 in Alexandria, Va., Riggs told attendees that aviation will be an important part of the Army's new "Units of Action" which will be ready and equipped in 2010.

In late November, an aviation detachment was added to the makeup of Units of Action, which is roughly a joint-service, brigade-sized unit that will be decisive in any operation, against any threat level, in any environment, according to the Operational and Organizational Plan.

The aviation detachment would be made up of three troops, 12 Comanche helicopters and eight UAVs, Riggs said. Its mission would be to conduct reconnaissance, provide aerial close support and engage and destroy when necessary, Riggs added.





Photos by Master Sgt. G. A. Volb

Backhoe operator Marlin Perez and Dennis Fernando Alcerro begin removing the old pipes and prepare for their replacement with larger ones.



Above: Lt. Col. Frank Matheson, director of JTF-Bravo's Civil Affairs Office, speaks with Reynaldo Lanza about the problem. Right: Capt. James Galloway gets dirty as he determines the best way to fix the drainage system.

Pipe dreams: *J-5, engineers team up to fix drainage infrastructure*

By Master Sgt. G. A. Volb
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs

Tucked away along the back streets of Comayagua's Barrio Abajo is a drainage problem causing local citizens a lot of grief.

The current infrastructure, originally built to take rain water away from residential areas much smaller than they are today, has been decimated by time and an ever increasing population. The problem has become so sensitive that the governor of the city, via the Civil Affairs Office here, requested Joint Task Force Bravo's help.

"It's a small piece of a larger problem," said Lt. Col. Frank Matheson, civil affairs director. "The drainage is so bad that the water backs up some three to four feet deep in the yards of those living nearby. Of course, this makes for drowning hazards as well as areas ripe for diseases such as malaria and dengue."



The residents of the Barrio know all too well the threats that come with stagnant water resulting from the lack of drainage.

"For the past 20 years our back yard has become a swimming pool," said Reynaldo Lanza, 65, the father in law of one affected family. "We have to clean up the trash and try to keep the water flowing, but during the rainy season it's nearly impossible." Rainy season in Honduras lasts from May to July, plus September and October.

Matheson said Lanza pointed out several trouble spots nearby that contributed to the drainage problem and that their initial efforts were, hopefully, just the beginning.

"It's been a high Dengue fever area in the past," he said. "In fact, members of a family across the way have contracted Dengue - even the hemorrhagic version."

Together with the bases support contractor PAE and Army engineers, the first step towards a viable drainage system took place Jan. 15.

"We replaced older, smaller pipes, with a larger version," said Army Capt. James Galloway, an Army engineer at JTF-Bravo. "Previously there were two different sizes of pipe which caused a backup - in this case the larger pipe was feeding into a smaller one."

The project, which took a little more than a day to complete, helps provide much-needed relief from the drainage problem as the engineers scout out other possible projects.

